LETTERS@METRO.US

IT MAY BE TIME FOR NEW WORK ATTIRE {page 14}

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BOSTON
Monday, January 07, 2013

films

Don't mess with 'Texas Chainsaw'

The first cut is the deepest with the 'Massacre' horror franchise {pages 11-12}

education

Mascot jobs are going to the dogs

Do you like your college or university enough to follow its mascot on Twitter? {page 08}

Hub businesses estimated to have lost $1 million for every home game canceled during lockout Why Boston should be excited the B's are back {pages 02, 17}

NHL, Bruins are back in business

By the numbers

63

This week, Gov. Deval Patrick is expected to take a look at 63 bills that came across his desk in the final days of the 2011-2012 legislative session. Among the bills are ones that deal with commuter shuttles and public transportation improvements, background checks and protecting public water supply lands. On Wednesday and Thursday of last week, Patrick signed two dozen new bills into law. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Back in #boston and the continuous nasal drip has begun #sniffle"

@DNTPICKURMOSE ON HOW THE HUB'S WEATHER AFFECTS HER.

In the news

T police look for men selling guns

BOSTON. Transit Police want MBTA riders to be on the lookout for a pair of young men who allegedly tried to sell guns to a Blue Line passenger at Airport Station two weeks ago.

On Saturday Transit Police released surveillance images of the suspects, who they said approached a passenger around 7 p.m. on Dec. 22 inside the station's Bremen Street entrance and offered to sell him a .40 caliber gun, and a .380 caliber gun.

They are believed to be between the ages of 17 and 20 years old. METRO

▶ The suspects

Dorchester vandals sought

BOSTON. Police are on the hunt for BB gun bandits following a string of window shootings in Dorchester. Police on Friday said that there have been seven reports of commercial windows being broken since November in Fields Corner, Lower Mills, Neponset, Savin Hill and Adams Village.

A senior center, a dry cleaners and a party store were among those damaged.

Each vandalism investigation yielded the discovery of pellets, police said. METRO

Frank would like to be senator

BOSTON. After retired Congressman Barney Frank made his interest in an interim U.S. Senate appointment public on Friday, Gov. Deval Patrick said the Newton Democrat would make a "great" senator and is on his list to consider.

The governor will get to appoint an interim senator if Sen. John Kerry is confirmed as secretary of state.

In an interview with MSNBC, Frank said he has no interest in running for the Senate seat in an anticipated special election. METRO

Businesses banking on Bruins return as fans come out of hibernation

▶ Hockey in the Hub means happy fans ▶ Businesses looking forward to lucrative end to lockout ▶ Fans are excited to see the ice back at the Garden

It may be a few months late, but the hockey fans are starting to come out of hibernation.

Excited fans wearing Boston Bruins hats and jerseys roamed the streets yesterday near the TD Garden, which will soon light up in gold again.

It appears that the 113-day National Hockey League lockout has come to an end. An agreement between the NHL and player's union was announced early yesterday morning meaning a shortened season could start as early as the end of this month.

Inside the TD Garden pro shop most of the Bruins jerseys and paraphernalia have been relegated to the back walls.

But Craig Beauregard knew exactly what he was looking for and made a beeline right past the sea of green Celtics gear in the front of the store yesterday.

He traveled from Quincy to the Garden to buy his new Brad Marchand jersey. He waited to get it on purpose and principle.

"I didn't want to give my money to someone who was being selfish," he said, still feeling bitter about the lockout.

But for dedicated fans like Beauregard, the battle back and forth between the players and the league and owners hasn't spoiled the game enough to keep him away from the Garden.

"I can't just sit at my apartment and watch it when they're so close," he said, adding that he will soon be hunting for tickets.

After hearing the news that hockey was returning to the Hub, Brian Lawlor of Medford headed to an eatery near the Garden for a celebratory brunch with friends.

Lawlor said that he tried to fill the hockey void with Celtics games, but with their winning inconsistency, they've been "difficult to watch."

"I'm just happy as a fan to have some hockey back," said Lawlor.

Michael Naughton
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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Excited the NHL season is going to be underway shortly, Boston Bruins fan Craig Beauregard, of Quincy, gears up at the TD Garden Proshop yesterday.

Quoted

"Them coming back is pretty fantastic for us."

CHRIS FOX, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, THE GREATEST BAR

$1M

The Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau estimated that each canceled home game meant nearly $1 million in lost business to places like bars, restaurants and souvenir stands near the Garden.

Businesses hope for boom

Becky Southworth described the past three months without hockey in one word: "abysmal."

"The past few months [at work] have been slow and quiet and sad," said Southworth, a server for the last four years at the Harp, which is across the street from the Garden.

Besides the uptick in tips, Southworth said she's looking forward to seeing more Bruins fans and regulars back in the bar.

Hannah Kempski, the marketing manager for the Harp, said they "couldn't be happier" the lockout is over.

"We have a ton of fans that come before and after every single game and even get a lot of fans that watch the away games, so it's a big deal for us," said Kempski. METRO/MN

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ It's safe to wear black and gold again.

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In the news

Shotgun-toting robber sought by police in Eastie

BOSTON. The Boston Police Department is asking for the public's help locating a person who held up an East Boston gas station with a shotgun.

The suspect walked into the Mobil station at 470 Meridian St. at about 7:40 p.m. Thursday, according to police. In surveillance video recently released by police, the person can be seen raising the shotgun from his or her side and pointing it at the clerk. The person is also wearing a bandanna over the lower half of his or her face and a baseball hat that is partially concealed by the hood of a sweatshirt. The clerk said the robber demanded money and, after receiving an undisclosed amount of cash, fled the store on foot.

Detectives are investigating. Anyone with information can call 617-343-4234 or text "tip" to 27463 (crime). METRO

In the news

Four killed in three fatal fires across state since Friday

MASSACHUSETTS. There were three fatal fires in Massachusetts since Friday, according to the Department of Fire Services.

A condominium fire in Chelmsford killed an elderly couple around 11 p.m. Saturday night. State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan said yesterday that the cause of the fire was under investigation.

Earlier that day a fire killed a teenage girl in Holyoke, and on Friday a man died in a house fire in Winchendon.

Those are also under investigation, but fire officials said they are focusing on accidental causes. METRO

"Fire officials urge people to make sure their ... alarms are working, especially during this cold weather."
DFS SPOKESWOMAN

Would-be robber not the sharpest spoon in the drawer

Boston man accused of using a spoon to hold up Dunkin' Donuts in Charlestown ◗ T officer gives the scoop on finding stickup in progress

A Transit Police officer's coffee craving led to the arrest of a spoon-wielding would-be robber in Charlestown on Saturday evening.

Officer Matthew Donovan, 29, was patrolling Sullivan Square around 5:30 p.m. when he decided to get a hot cup of coffee from the Dunkin' Donuts on Cambridge Street.

"I walked in and noticed a commotion going on at the register," said Donovan. "Someone said to me, 'Thank God you're here. He's over there.'"

Frightened customers were referring to Michael Wallace, 35, of Boston, who allegedly told a female cashier that he had a knife, and that he wanted money from the register.

Wallace allegedly pointed a long object at the cashier, then tried to pry open the register.

When Donovan asked him to hand over the knife, Wallace said he didn't have one.

"He had a silver spoon — your average dinner spoon," Donovan said.

Morgan Rousseau
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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Transit Police Officer Matthew Donovan foiled the robbery.

Is a spoon dangerous?

The suspect is accused of assault with a dangerous weapon. It's hard to imagine a dinner spoon would much damage, but transit police said that is beside the point. Officer Matthew Donovan said of the charge, "[The cashier] believed she was being threatened with a knife, and was afraid."

"When he displayed it in that manner, it was [considered dangerous] because the cashier at no time thought it was a spoon."
DONOVAN

Eyewitness account

Things were quiet yesterday at the Cambridge Street Dunkin' Donuts, but a regular customer who identified himself as "Pat" said he was at the coffee shop during Saturday's spoon spectacle.

"You could tell he was up to something. He had sunglasses on, but it was dark outside. It was great that they got him," he said, adding on his way out, "The whole world is going bananas."

Given a court date on a silver spoon

Wallace was arrested on the spot, and is facing charges of attempted armed robbery and assault by means of a dangerous weapon. He is due in court today.

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Self-proclaimed 'klepto' nabbed at South Station

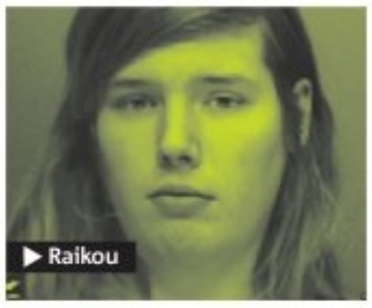
A Boston woman admitted to stealing a transit worker's bag from his booth at South Station on Friday night, but blamed the crime on a stealing addiction.

Twenty-year-old Nyllabrii Raikou allegedly led the T worker on a foot-chase to Fort Point Chanel after swiping the bag from a customer service booth on the Silver Line platform around 10 p.m.

When she noticed Transit Police approaching, Raikou reportedly tossed the bag with all its contents — including a cell phone — into the water.

During her arrest, Raikou reportedly told Transit Police, "I couldn't help it. I'm a kleptomaniac."

Kleptomania is a mental disorder that makes it difficult to resist the urge to steal, according to the Mayo Clinic.


▶ Raikou

Charges

She is facing charges of larceny and is due in court today.

Police said they made several attempts to get the bag out of the water, but "the currents were moving too swiftly."

Morgan Rousseau
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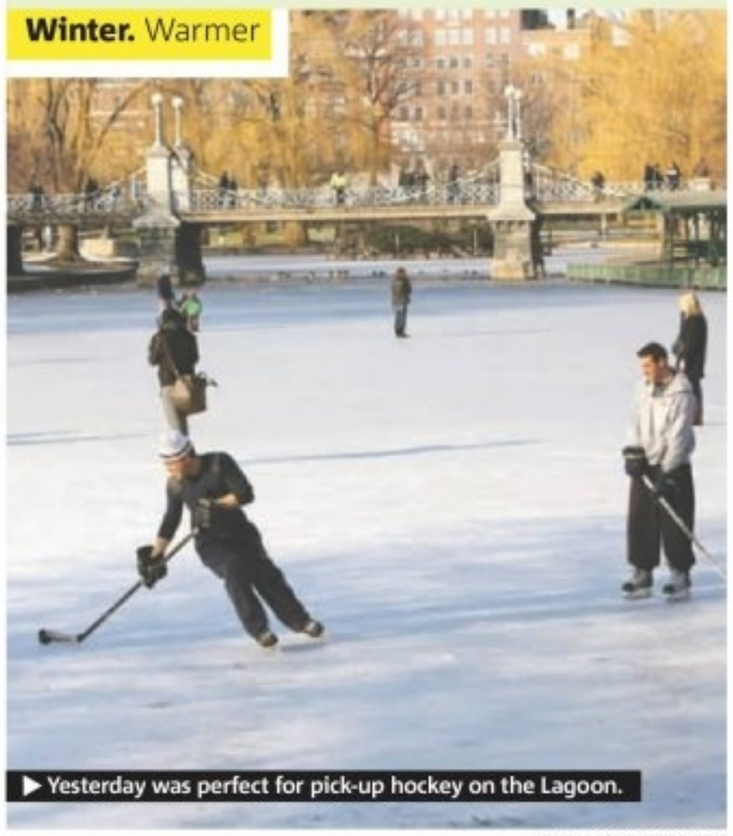
Winter. Warmer


▶ Yesterday was perfect for pick-up hockey on the Lagoon.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Warm trend could put skating on ice

Temperatures were just right yesterday for many to enjoy the ice on the Lagoon in the Boston Public Garden. However, this week's National Weather Service forecast calls for a significant warming trend, with highs in the mid- to upper-40s every day through Saturday. METRO

In the news

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ South Station

Suspicious package scare at South Station terminal

BOSTON. The South Station bus terminal was evacuated for a short time Friday morning after a suspicious package was found in the restroom.

MBTA officials warned bus passengers to expect delays around 10:30 a.m. while officers investigated the package, which was determined not to be a threat.

The terminal reopened less than an hour later. Red Line and commuter service were not affected. METRO

Christmas trees to hit the road

BOSTON. Pedestrians may want to watch their step over the next few days, as the sidewalks will likely be lined with discarded Christmas trees.

The Boston Public Works Department will start collecting Christmas trees for composting today and will continue to do so until Jan. 18, according to a message on the city's website.

City officials asked tree owners to remove ornaments, decorations and stands and to place them at the curb by 7 a.m. on their recycling days.

City officials also reminded residents not to put trees in plastic bags and encouraged them to recycle leftover holiday catalogs and wrapping paper. METRO

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BPS is also registering grades 6 & 9 during this time.
Note: current BPS students will receive their applications through their schools and do not need to visit an FRC.
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In the news

US drone attack kills 10 in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, PAKISTAN. A U.S. drone strike killed at least 10 suspected Taliban fighters in Pakistan's northern tribal areas yesterday, intelligence sources said, days after another drone strike killed a top militant leader in the area.

The attack on three Taliban compounds in Babar Pehari, South Waziristan, killed between 10 and 12 people, six intelligence sources said. More militants were believed to be in the compounds when they were hit, officials said, meaning the death toll could rise.

Three of the intelligence sources and a Taliban commander said that Wali Muhammed, also known as Toofin, was among the dead. He supervised suicide bomb squads for the Pakistani Taliban. **REUTERS**

India, Pakistan clash in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD. A Pakistani soldier was killed and another injured in a gunfight between Indian and Pakistani troops in Kashmir yesterday, a disputed incident that could heighten tensions between the nuclear neighbors after a period of rapprochement.

The Pakistani army said Indian troops had raided their Sawan Patra check post in Kashmir, a hotly contested area both countries claim as their own.

There were more than 75 ceasefire violations along the Line of Control in 2012. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"Pakistan army troops effectively responded and repulsed the attack."

A PAKISTANI ARMY SPOKESMAN, IN A STATEMENT

Nixon remembered in centennial celebration

▶ Nixon

LOS ANGELES. A planned yearlong centennial celebration of Richard Nixon's birth kicked off yesterday at his presidential library in Southern California, with military honors and the laying of a wreath by the eldest daughter of the late 37th U.S. president.

Nixon, the Cold War-era Republican stalwart who opened U.S. relations with communist China and became the only American president to resign from office, leaving the White House in disgrace over the Watergate scandal, would have turned 100 this week.

He died in 1994 at age 81.

The Richard Nixon Foundation plans to observe his complicated legacy with various events throughout the year, starting with the event yesterday at the official Nixon library run by the foundation and the National Archives in Yorba Linda, California — his birthplace. **REUTERS**

Report: Obama, Biden attempt wider gun control methods

The White House is weighing a far broader approach to curbing U.S. gun violence than just reinstating a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, the Washington Post reported yesterday.

A working group led by Vice President Joe Biden is seriously considering measures that would require universal background checks for gun buyers and track the movement and sale of weapons through a national database, the newspaper said.

The measures would also strengthen mental health checks and stiffen penalties for carrying guns near schools or giving them to minors, the Post said. The approach is backed by law enforcement leaders, it said.

President Barack Obama assigned Biden the job of designing the strategy after the massacre at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school last month that killed 20 children and six adults.

▶ Protesters demonstrate against the National Rifle Association.

GETTY IMAGES

To sell such changes, the White House is developing strategies to work around the National Rifle Association, the powerful gun lobby.

They include rallying support from Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and other gun retailers for measures that would benefit their businesses, the Post said. **REUTERS**

NYC mayor

The White House has been in contact with advisers to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a gun control advocate who could emerge as a surrogate for the administration's agenda, the paper said.

The Post cited several people involved in the administration's talks on gun control for its story. They included Dan Gross, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum. **REUTERS**

Obama to nominate Hagel as new defense secretary

President Barack Obama will nominate former Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel to be his defense secretary, with an announcement possibly arriving today, a Democratic congressional aide said.

The choice will likely set up a confirmation battle in the Senate over whether the former Nebraska senator and Vietnam veteran is a strong enough supporter of key U.S. ally Israel and over his past calls for military cuts.

The Obama administration backed down from a tough Senate confirmation battle over Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who was Obama's first pick to replace Hillary Clinton as secretary of state. Rice withdrew her name from consideration after drawing heavy fire from Republicans for remarks she made in the aftermath of a Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hagel

"He is in a weaker position now than Rice ever was because Rice would have rallied Democrats behind her. The administration floated Hagel's name, then neglected to defend him effectively when his critics started taking shots," the aide said. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"The president wants him because he trusts him and he's an independent voice."

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A TRUE STORY OF LOVE

Weird Science

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Log on

Justin has produced a chalkanimation video to accompany this column. View it at www.metro.us/weirdscience

MRIs are shedding light on romance. Helen Fisher has studied love for more than 30 years. With a team at Rutgers, she scanned the brains of individuals in different phases of relationships and found surprising results.

Love shines brightest not in those head over heels but in the recently dumped. Three brain regions activate; romantic love, risk-taking and individual attachment. Pain from losing a partner is a survival instinct not for the individual, but for species perpetuation. A lyric by the Doors describes the feeling: "Don't you love her as she's walking out the door."

Speaking of Jim Morrison, cocaine affects one of the same regions as romance. Fisher describes the dwelling of love as "way below your cognitive thinking process. It's below your emotions. It's part of what we call the reptilian core of the brain, associated with wanting, with motivation, with focus and with craving." Love is an addiction, including tolerance, withdrawal and relapse.

We're all hooked. College students were asked if they've been rejected by someone they love or if they've rejected someone who loves them. Nearly 95 percent said yes to both. As Fisher says, "Almost nobody gets out of love alive."

There is hope. The drive for a romantic mate focuses energy to raise offspring as a team and increase the chance of survival. Love highlights strengths and downplays weaknesses in a spouse. A truck driver once poetically explained, "The world had a new center, and that center was Mary Anne."

Quoted

"Romance is not wasted on the young."

Romance is not wasted on the young. Art Aron thought to scan individuals in long-term relationships claiming to be in love. Fisher reveals, "They're not lying. The brain areas associated with intense romantic love still become active 25 years later."

Mystery remains. For example, why — in a room of people with similar looks, intelligence and beliefs — can one stranger stand out? Helen Fisher's current research uses dating website Chemistry.com to study what makes two brain systems complementary.

Until more is revealed, take a hint from science. Maintain some mystery and do something new with someone special — both release dopamine, a gateway drug vital to triggering love.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

In the news

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Depardieu and Putin

Depardieu dines with Putin after getting a new Russian passport

MOSCOW. Gerard Depardieu, the French actor who was granted Russian citizenship, met President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi after receiving his new passport, according to a statement on the Kremlin's website.

Two photographs on the site show the actor, who played Grigory Rasputin in a 2011 film about the peasant monk famous for his mystical influence over Russia's last Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra, dining with Putin yesterday and embracing him. Depardieu and Putin discussed the actor's work in the Franco-Russian production, according to the statement.

Depardieu's new passport is "good news for Russian cinema," French Budget Minister Jerome Cahuzac said yesterday on Europe 1 radio. Still, "I find it a bit ludicrous that for tax reasons, this man decided to exile himself so far to the east."

Depardieu, who bought a home in Belgium and applied for citizenship there before Putin offered a Russian passport, said he did so to flee taxes imposed on the wealthy by French President Francois Hollande. **BLOOMBERG**

13%

Depardieu says he's developed close links with Russia, which has a flat 13-percent personal income tax rate.

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In the news

GETTY IMAGES

▶ New York City students, city officials and state lawmakers protested proposed education cuts in the fall.

US public schools cut 11,000 jobs in December

Local U.S. governments cut jobs for the fourth straight month in December, including 11,000 in public schools, dragging down the nation's fragile economic recovery, jobs data showed on Friday.

Local government jobs are now at their lowest level since October 2005, with the bulk of the decline coming from layoffs of teachers and other school employees, according to the Labor Department.

For more than a year, persistent declines in public sector employment— particularly at the city, county and school district level — have stood in contrast to steady job gains in the private sector.

Jan Eberly, the U.S. Treasury assistant secretary for economic policy, said recent improvements in state budgets may start to reverse some of the declines next year.

"There is some expectation that state and local budgets will start to improve as the economy is picking up, and we're seeing improvements in many states, though not in all states," Eberly told reporters on Friday.

Since August 2008, local governments have shed some 300,000 teaching and other school jobs, raising fears the layoffs could hurt students' education. Typically, schools try to avoid cutting jobs in the middle of the school year and make most of their staffing changes in the summer. **REUTERS**

"[We] remain hopeful that President Obama and the 113th Congress, as well as governors, will prioritize our students and public education and work hard to stave off further cuts."

DENNIS VAN ROEKEL, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, THE LARGEST U.S. TEACHERS' UNION

Media-savvy mascots score big at Butler

The university's basketball team is going strong, but their busy bulldog mascots are just as popular

Quoted

"He was already so popular on campus, but thanks to social media and traveling around, that's automatically raised his status and put him on another scale."
KALTENMARK

SAM LAIRD FOR Mashable The Social Media Guide

These are heady times for the basketball Bulldogs of Butler University. The Indianapolis team has reached college basketball's storied Final Four in two of the past three years, recently scored a monumental upset win over in-state powerhouse Indiana University and this season joined a new, more high-profile sports conference in the Atlantic 10.

But all that is just barely enough to overshadow the burgeoning reputation of Blue II, the school's adorable English Bulldog mascot who just launched a national tour and is steadily building a social media empire along the way.

Along with their human assistants, Blue II and his eventual successor, Blue III, have been barnstorming the country in a van bearing their wrinkly likenesses, hitting major markets to further boost Butler's basketball profile through slobbery cuteness and social media savvy.

▶ You can catch up with Blue II on Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Foursquare, Facebook and Ustream.

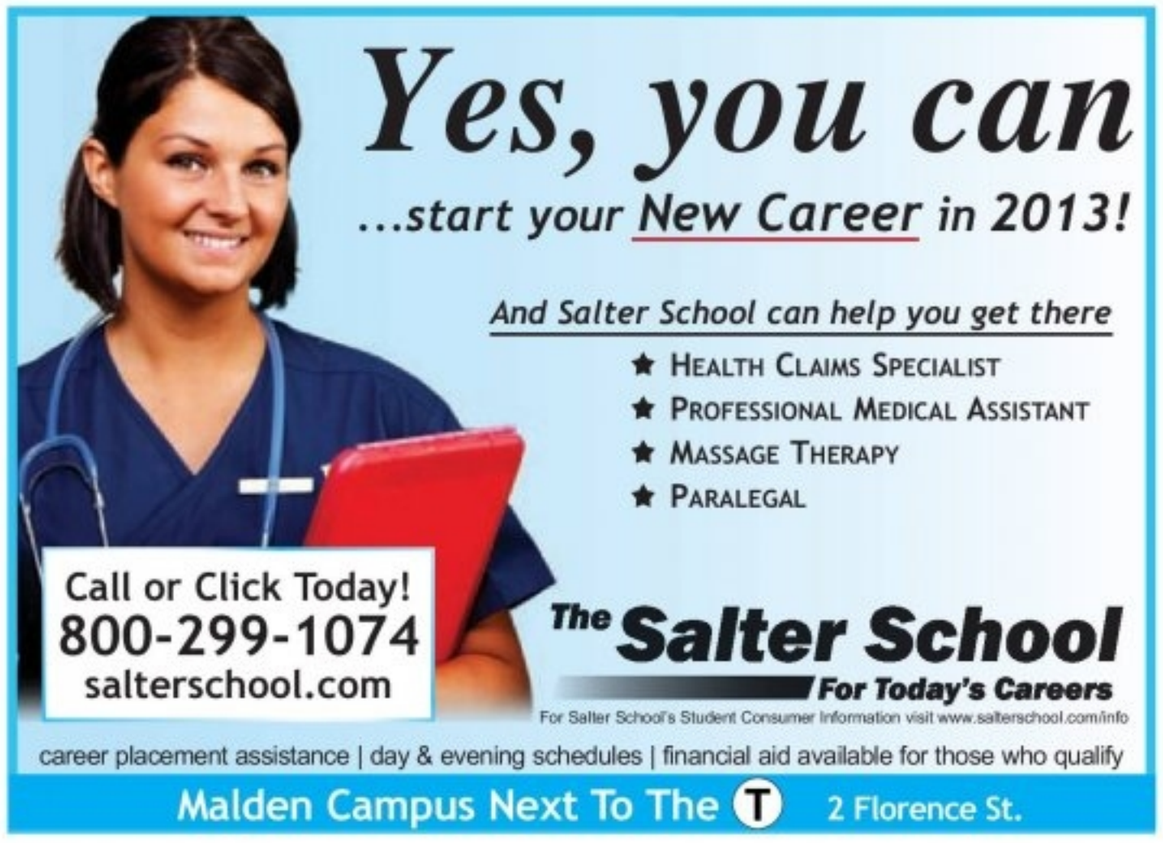
BUTLER UNIVERSITY

On Twitter, Blue II shares photos and interacts with his 11,000 followers. He's also got his own blog and posts filtered photos to Instagram and video updates to YouTube. Oh, and he's on Pinterest, Foursquare and Facebook, and shares live video via Ustream.

"He was already so popular on campus, but thanks to social media and traveling around, that's automatically raised his status and put him on another scale," says Butler's director of Web marketing Michael Kaltenmark, who doubles as Blue II's owner, chauffeur and ghost-tweeter.

So far, Blues II and III have hit Louisville and Nashville in conjunction with basketball team road trips. Next up are swings through Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Columbus, Pittsburgh, D.C. and New York City.

But how do Blue II and Blue III feel about the grind of a traveling celebrity? "The dogs love it," Kaltenmark says. "I think they just enjoy getting out of the office."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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

2

Talking points

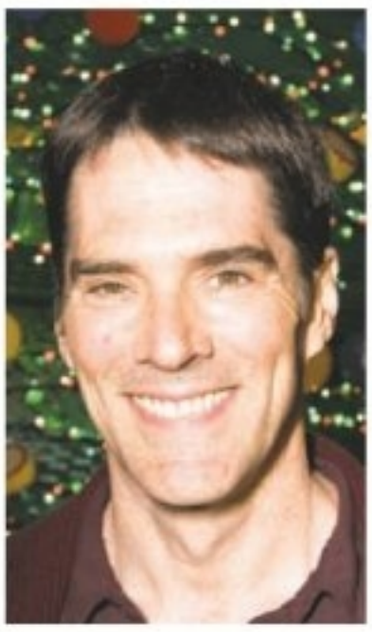
Chastain on the Hollywood dating scene

As "Zero Dark Thirty" star **Jessica Chastain**'s fame increases, don't expect her to become part of a Hollywood couple. "I have dated an actor before, at Juilliard, but since then, I've only been on a couple of dates with one and I was so freaked out someone was going to take a picture of us, because they were famous," she tells InStyle. Of course, it wasn't just the potential for paparazzi that got to her. "I realized I wanted just to be able to hang out with someone, and I didn't want to talk about the business, first of all," she says. "I love movies. But I love talking about them like when I was 15 years old. I'm a film fan, but I don't want to talk about auditions or what movie I'm gonna do. I find that so boring."

Crowe on the 'Les Miz' haters

Russell Crowe knows how to handle criticism, especially when it comes to his singing in "Les Miserables." Singer **Adam Lambert** took to Twitter to complain about the film, posting that it "suffered massively [because of] great actors pretending to be singers." But apparently there are no hard feelings, as Crowe himself posted to Twitter, "I don't disagree with Adam. Sure it could have been sweetened, [director **Tom**] **Hooper** wanted it raw and real, that's how it was."

January is shaping up to be a bad month for these stars



Is it the weather? The new year? Holiday hangovers? Seasonal affective disorder? Whatever it is, something is happening this month with celebrities and the law.

- Over the weekend, TMZ.com posted photos of **Justin Bieber** smoking what appears to be marijuana. But the singer is trying to take the controversy in stride. "Everyday growing and learning. Trying to be better. [You] get knocked down, [you] get up," Bieber posted to his fans on Twitter. "Back on tour tomorrow. Ready to see [you] all smile. Time to do what I'm supposed to be doing. Performing."

- **Josh Brolin**, who is no stranger to getting into trouble in bars while drinking, was arrested at 11:30 p.m. on Jan. 1 for public intoxication outside a Santa Monica, Calif., bar, according to E! News. "He was intoxicated and unable to care for himself," a police spokesman says. "He was booked and released with no further action pending." If his mug shot is any indication, Brolin wasn't too thrilled about the ordeal.

- **Bethenny Frankel** filed for divorce from her husband, **Jason Hoppy,** in New York City last week. The former "Housewife" took to Twitter about the split: "To those of you who are being supportive: thank you. To those of you who are judging: I totally get it."

- "Criminal Minds" and "Dharma & Greg" star **Thomas Gibson** was arrested Sunday morning for suspicion of a DUI, TMZ reports. Gibson attempted to drive through a part of downtown Los Angeles that had been sectioned off for a half-marathon; he was told he couldn't drive through, but he did anyway (I'm guessing he did the ol' "Don't you know who I am?" to the cops and the cops were like, "No, not really.") None to happy about being ignored, the police caught up with him and smelled booze in the car. The actor refused to take a breathalyzer test but was arrested on suspicion of DUI anyway.

Hot looks

▶ No Pea in the Pod for Kardashian?

GETTY IMAGES

So far, Kim Kardashian's maternity wear sticks to two looks: Black and sheer. The reality TV star is pictured here on New Year's Eve in Las Vegas, left, and in Calgary, Canada on Friday.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Pink is challenging herself, Elizabeth Hurley is trying to understand cricket, Bill Maher was hoping for more progress and Kevin Nealon doesn't trust the government.

@Pink: Bikram yoga kicked my entire ass today. At one point I almost hit the panic button. #amateur

@ElizabethHurley: When people say it's a 'good wicket'....do they mean for the batsmen or bowlers? Confused.....

@billmaher: Looks like Obama's keeping Gitmo, they just can't close it- it's the Olive Garden of prisons; it gets terrible reviews but somehow stays open

@kevin_nealon: I wouldn't mind paying the government more taxes but I know they're just gonna spend it on booze.

Pink

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Can it be? These stars will see the big 5-0 in 2013

1. **Brad Pitt?** 50? Yup! The star hits this milestone on Dec. 18.

2. "Harry Potter" actor **Jason Isaacs** turns 50 on June 6.

3. **Seal** will celebrate his big birthday on Feb. 19.

4. **Johnny Depp** has until June 9 to live it up in his 40s.

5. Freedom! '50? **George Michael** gets there on June 25.

6. Even after his 50th birthday on Aug. 19, **John Stamos** will still be able to sell us Greek yogurt.

7.But he looks so young! **Quentin Tarantino** hits his fifth decade of life on March 27.

1. ANNE-CHRISTINE POUJOULAT/AFP/GETTYIMAGES
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'Texas Chainsaw' by the numbers

Oh Leatherface, you never seem to leave us. Since the release of the smash hit in 1974, which was filmed on a shoestring budget, Hollywood has desperately sought to capture the magic of the power tool-wielding killer. In looking at the seven film installments of the franchise, we've learned a few things: 1. The Renee Zellweger and Matthew McConaughey combination in 1994 did little to interest the franchise's fan base; 2. Even Viggo Mortensen had to star in a horror movie at one point; 3. Low critics' ratings do little to keep an audience away in the modern age.

Heidi Patalano
heidi.patalano@metro.us

'The Texas Chain Saw Massacre'

Year of release: 1974
Starring: Gunnar Hansen (Leatherface)
Domestic Gross: $30,859,000

91%
Rotten Tomatoes Critics' Rating: 91% approval

'The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2'

Year of release: 1986
Starring: Dennis Hopper
Domestic Gross: $8,025,872
Rotten Tomatoes Critics' Rating: 45% approval

'Leatherface: The Texas Chainsaw Massacre III'

Year of release: 1990
Starring: Viggo Mortensen
Domestic Gross: $5,765,562
Rotten Tomatoes Critics' Rating: 14% approval

'Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Next Generation'

Year of Release: 1994
Starring: Renee Zellweger and Matthew McConaughey
Domestic Gross: $44,272
Rotten Tomatoes Critics' Rating: 17% approval

'The Texas Chainsaw Massacre'

Year of Release: 2003
Starring: Jessica Biel
Domestic Gross: $80,571,655
Rotten Tomatoes Critics' Rating: 36% approval

'Texas Chainsaw 3D'

Year of Release: 2013
Starring: Alexandra Daddario, Trey Songz
Domestic Earnings First Weekend: $23,000,000 (estimated)
Rotten Tomatoes Critics' Rating: 22% approval

'The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning'

Year of Release: 2006
Starring: Jordana Brewster
Domestic Gross: $39,517,763
Rotten Tomatoes Critics' Rating: 12% approval

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TV watch list

WILL HART/NBC

▶ Detective Joanna Locasto (Meagan Good) is welcomed back into the Bowers fold by patriarch Robert (Victor Garber) on "Deception."

'Deception'

DRAMA. After the super-privileged, uber-rich party girl Vivian Bowers passes away, the FBI puts detective Joanna Locasto (Meagan Good) — who grew up with the elite clan when her mother worked on their estate — back into the Bowers' lives to investigate whether the death was actually murder. But a possible homicide becomes just one of Joanna's worries when she begins to uncover the family's dark secrets in this "Revenge"-like drama. **Series premiere, 10 p.m., NBC**

'Vanderpump Rules'

REALITY. "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star Lisa Vanderpump gets a spinoff focusing on her swank Los Angeles restaurant and the pretty, petty servers who work there. **Series premiere, 9 p.m., Bravo**

'The Bachelor'

REALITY. Sean Lowe — the 28-year-old Texan whose heart was broken by Emily Maynard on "The Bachelorette" — is the one handing out roses this season. **Season premiere, 8 p.m., ABC**

'Bunheads'

COMEDY. The dancers are back — but Michelle is still MIA after the "Nutcracker" debacle? **Season premiere, 9 p.m., ABC Family** ● AMBER RAY

Box office

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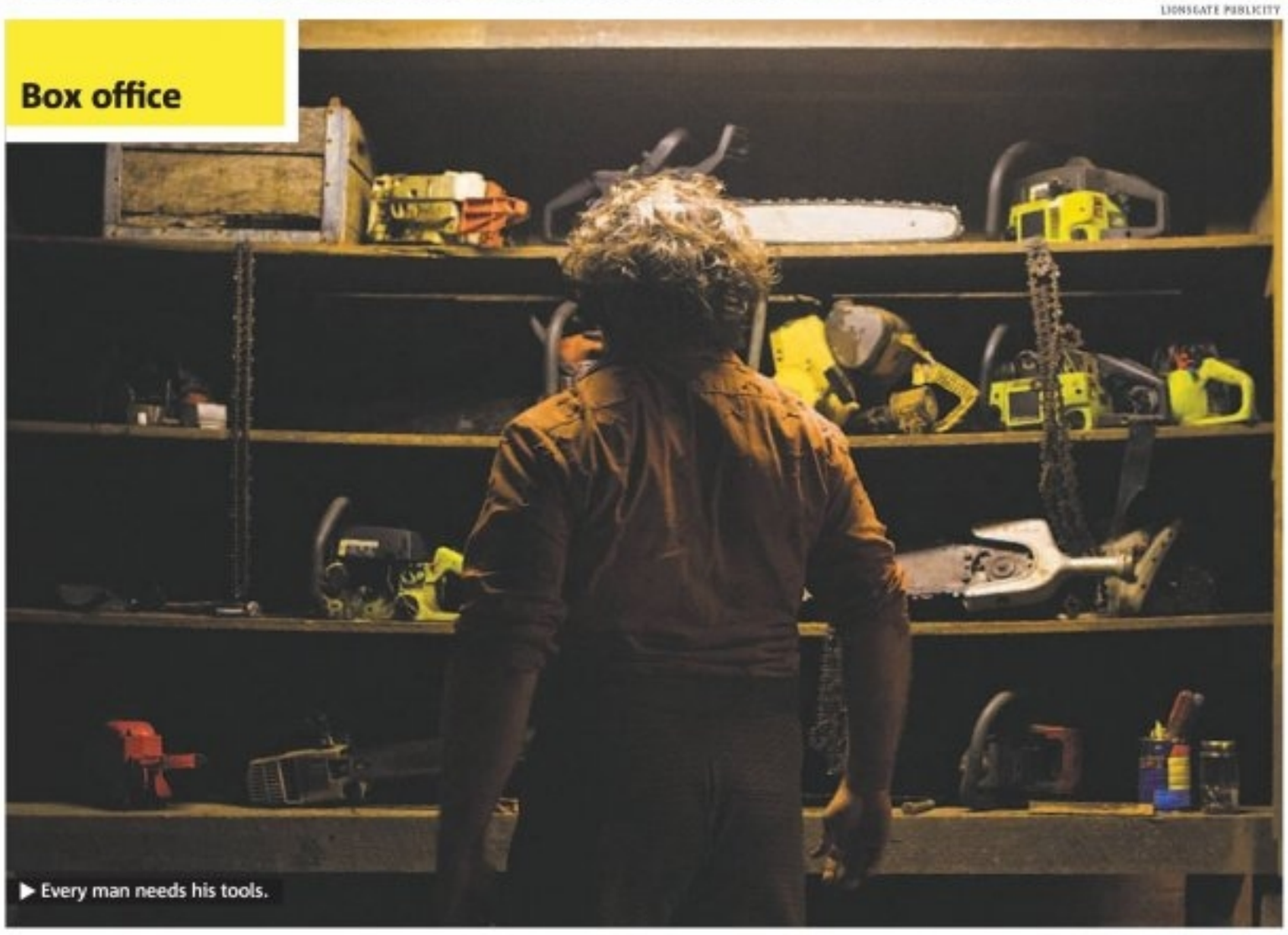

▶ Every man needs his tools.

The bloody return of 'Texas Chainsaw' tops North American box office

The bloody "Texas Chainsaw 3D" buzzed past rivals at the weekend box office, generating a chart-topping $23 million in ticket sales at U.S. and Canadian movie theaters. The movie revives a horror franchise that started four decades ago with the original 1974 film about a serial killer named Leatherface. The new movie picks up where that film ended, following a woman who inherits a family home.

The horror flick topped Quentin Tarantino Western "Django Unchained," the second place film from Friday through Sunday with $20 million. No. 3 movie "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" grabbed $17.5 million, according to studio estimates. Lionsgate Entertainment released "Texas Chainsaw." The Weinstein Co. distributed "Django Unchained." "The Hobbit" was released by Warner Bros., a unit of Time Warner Inc. REUTERS

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Subtle shifts for radical change

Zen in the City

GABRIELLE BERNSTEIN
WWW.GABBYB.TV

By the time we're a week into January, the party's over. The holiday binge expires, the hangover wears off and we're left without excuses for gluttonous behavior. Consequently, we hop on the resolution bandwagon. January is traditionally considered to be the perfect time to create change. Unfortunately, real change rarely lasts.

It's not that resolutions are doomed. In fact, making a resolution can be a powerful choice — as long as you do it right. There are a few common reasons why people have trouble making resolutions stick. For instance, I witness many people try to "do it all" at once, hoping to rapidly overhaul their lives by force of sheer determination. Making change isn't about a single major shift — real change comes from adding up subtle shifts. In my new book, "May Cause Miracles," I offer a guide to making subtle shifts for radical change. Want to truly commit to your resolution this year? Follow these four tips from the book to make your resolution stick.

1 You gotta want it: Willingness is the key to long-lasting change. Throughout my life I've made radical changes. I've been sober for seven years, I've been off dairy for more than a year and I've committed to a daily meditation practice for the past eight years. I was able to commit to these changes because I wanted them. But I did struggle to change patterns due to a lack of willingness. My primo example? Coffee. It's taken me half a decade to overcome my addiction to caffeine. I just didn't want to give it up. Then, about two weeks ago I heard that inner voice say, "It's time to let it go." Something clicked and willingness set in. Whether you hit some major bottom or you simply have an internal quantum shift, it is imperative to allow willingness to set in before you begin the journey toward change.

REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT

The key element to making change stick is a 40-day practice of repeating new behavior. It's this repetition that will allow you to truly make your desired change last. Indeed, neurobiological studies show that 40 days of repeating new behavior reprograms your brain by reversing neural pathways. It's this reversal that changes your patterns and behaviors, and therefore your life.

2 Keep it simple: Have you ever desperately wished you could make change happen overnight? We must surrender to the fact that real change happens by adding up subtle shifts. When we add up these moments, we create new behavior. It's important to keep it simple and stay in the day. Let yourself off the hook! Instead of getting overwhelming by focusing on changing your whole life right now, simply begin paying attention to the moment-to-moment subtle shifts. Trust that the miracle lies within the subtleties.

3 Just show up: The Kundalini yoga masters taught that 90 percent of the practice was just showing up to class or sitting down to practice yoga. If 90 percent of creating a new habit is just showing up, then we can take the pressure off. Stop waiting for something major to happen — just show up for change.

If you're inspired to create permanent change, keep it simple and commit to creating subtle shifts of new behavior for the next 40 days. Already broke your resolution? Don't beat yourself up. You can begin again today! Each day offers new opportunities to learn and grow.

— Gabrielle Bernstein is the author of "Spirit Junkie."

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

STOCKBYTE

▶ If you need more guidance, check out "May Cause Miracles" at www.gabbyb.tv to help make your resolutions stick.

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Work toward your passions

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▶ When making plans for 2013, remember to set aside time for passion projects.

Advice

DAN SCHAWBEL

PERSONALBRANDINGBLOG.COM

Economists are predicting that there will be a hiring boom in early 2013. It's about time the economy started to bounce back! This is especially good news for young professionals, who suffer from the highest rate of unemployment at 13.5 percent, compared to the overall rate of 7.9 percent. As we begin 2013, here are some career resolutions that will help you land the internship, job or promotion you want.

Develop and manage your online presence: Gone are the days when the PDF rèsumè on your desktop mattered. You need to be on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter or you will suffer as a result. Recruiters are already searching for you or people with your skills. On LinkedIn, for example, get endorsements for your skills so your profile will appear higher when people are searching. Also, ask for recommendations from people you've worked with in the past to build credibility and relationships with hiring managers.

Focus on your soft skills: Employers are always looking for soft skills — such as communication skills and strong emotional intelligence — when hiring and promoting. By going to industry events, you can develop these skills and further your career.

Work on a passion project: It's important to do work that is meaningful to you, even if it's not part of your full-time gig. By making this time investment, you could potentially do your hobby as your full-time job in the future. If nothing else, it will help keep you motivated and learning new things.

*— **Dan Schawbel** is a Gen Y career expert, the founder of Millennial Branding and the author of Me 2.0.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

BRAND X PICTURES

4 NOVEL WAYS TO SEARCH FOR A NEW JOB IN 2013

It's a tough job market out there, which means you're going to have to step up your game if you want to land your next gig.

In this spirit, some bold individuals are finding extreme ways to proactively market themselves to potential employers. While these unique (and sometimes wacky) tactics might not work for everyone, there are valuable lessons to be learned from these outside-the-box job search ideas.

1. Try an unconventional résumé format

Infographic résumés are making a big splash with creative people the world over. These graphic takes on a traditional résumé can highlight key functional skills as well as an applicant's personality in a dramatic and eye-catching way. Video résumés are also making a big comeback. While video résumés can sometimes come across as incredibly cheesy, some have taken the idea of a video CV beyond its typical awkward format.

If you're sticking to a traditional format, try thinking about novel ways to describe your skill set to reflect what's unique about you.

2. See your name in lights

Rather than relying on a résumé to get her name out there, one woman from Atlanta, Ga., used the holiday season to publicize her job hunt by spelling out "My wish, HR job, Liz Hickok, LinkedIn" with strings of Christmas lights on the side of her house. Other job-seekers have spent thousands of dollars on billboard advertisements.

If there is something we can learn from these blatant self-promoters, it's that it's critical to get your name "out there," whether through social media, a personal website or networking like crazy.

3. Create your own personal ad campaign

Alec Brownstein, a 28-year-old copywriter, landed a job through a fantastically simple personal marketing campaign. When advertising execs Googled their own names, Brownstein's paid ad was the first result on the page. The ad directed these potential employers to his personal website, and resulted in multiple job offers. The stunt cost mere cents per click. Like Brownstein, you should learn where your potential employers hang out online, and use that channel to connect with them.

4. Get employers to compete for your affection

Andrew Horner decided that after two years of job searching, he was going to turn the tables and ask employers to apply to have him work at their company. With a bold list of "must haves," he set up a website (www.reversejobapplication.com) which went viral once people got wind of his "reverse job application" scheme. Horner ended up landing himself a job and keeps the website active to inspire others to ask: "What do employers have to offer me?"

When you're looking at a potential job, you should be interviewing your potential employer. What advantages does the company offer? What is the culture like? Ask the right questions to be sure it will be the right fit.

ASHLEIGH TRAHAN FOR TalentEgg

Talentegg.com is a job board and online career resource for college students and recent graduates.

Starting your new year with a whole new work wardrobe

The new year is a time for self-reflection, goal-setting and, of course, resolutions.

Most people's resolutions involve improving their lives in some way, and having the right wardrobe can pave the way for opportunity, both personally and professionally. Research suggests that upward of 90 percent of all communication is nonverbal. Your appearance and wardrobe play a huge role in communicating who you are and what your potential is to a prospective employer.

What you need

Seek quality over quantity where possible, and keep trendy pieces cheap and cheerful. Every man and woman needs:

- Wool blend suits in neutral colors — black, gray or navy — that are professionally tailored
- Tailored white button-up shirts
- Black and brown dress shoes

Round 1: Evaluate your closet

It's likely that you have items in your closet that are holding you back from presenting your best "self" to the world, not to mention cluttering up your closet.

If you know that an item in your closet no longer fits, toss it, donate it to charity or give it to a friend who can use it — you need to dress for the size you are, not the size you used to be. Clothing that is too big gives off a sloppy and unprofessional image, not to mention it makes you look bigger than you are. Clothing that is too small is not only inappropriate but gives off a juvenile image — not the best look when you're advancing your career.

Round 2: Shop with a plan

It's never a good idea to go grocery shopping on an empty stomach without a list. The same principle applies to your wardrobe. If you don't plan, you will inevitably buy things you don't need and will end up with a lot of waste and less money in your bank account.

BRAND X

▶ Doesn't fit? Get rid of it and make room for clothes that make you look good in 2013.

Figure out what pieces you need to complement your existing wardrobe and plan from there.

Get on retailers' e-mail lists or follow them on Facebook and Twitter to receive notices of upcoming sales and shopping events. Finding the right items takes time and patience, but you can gain an advantage by doing some research before wandering around the mall.

ERIN MILLER./TALENTEGG

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Measure twice, cut — well, cut a lot

RE: "THIS BATTLE CAN'T BE WON WITH MILITARY FUNDING" (METRO, JAN. 4-6) Janet Swift Dugdale's recent letter to the editor claimed that cutting $100 billion from the defense budget "would just about eliminate the federal deficit."

Actually, the federal deficit for this year will be over $1.1 trillion dollars, so we still would have a long way to go, even adding in the recent tax rate hikes on the "rich" which raise only $62 billion per year.

As the United States' defense budget makes up only 19 percent of the budget and entitlements make up 62 percent, where else would you cut to reduce the other $1 trillion, Jane?

TOM WARD, VIA E-MAIL

"There's no excuse for putting a TV show on the cover of a 'newspaper.' This is just embarrassing. P.S.: 'Portlandia' = 6 out of 10 stars, FYI."

ELIZABETH ROSE, VIA E-MAIL

New year, new ways to squander the public's trust

Turns out the "fiscal cliff" had as much constraint as a New Year's resolution. Though not easy, like diet and exercise for the overweight, Congress needs the fortitude and a sense of urgency to fulfill the people's work.

GLENN HAYES, VIA E-MAIL

Don't worry — soon, you'll be 'rich'

RE: "BUSINESSES HAVE LOTS OF SPARE CASH — SO LET'S TAKE IT!" (METRO, JAN. 4-6) In response to Dan Combs' letter: If the government keeps taking from the wealthy, eventually they will run out of money and the middle class will become the wealthy and the poor will become the middle class. It's the rotating door of taxes. The solution is to force our government to stop spending more then it has. Also, this country needs to stop blaming President Bush for this mess. It wasn't him, it was they greedy guys on Wall Street. Hold Obama to the same strict standards you hold Bush to. Obama is just as big a culprit, with his dead-end stimulus and bailouts.

CHRIS ST. LOUIS, VIA E-MAIL

Corporations have their cake and eat ours, too

No problem will ever be solved until it is first defined. The United States suffers from "lack-a-dough" because of the improper distribution of capital — mostly, due to Congress' commitment to wealth want, instead of national need. Corporations owe 35 percent in taxes, pay 8 percent on average, and stockpile $21 trillion in offshore accounts to avoid paying. The oil industry reports a $0.25 trillion annual profit — yet gas prices continually rise, which in turn raises the cost for goods and services dependent on transportation. The United States government is the best money can buy, so when will WE be told to eat cake?

BILL YUSKA, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

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Horoscope

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.**
When out on the town sharing a good time with friends, cough up an equal share of the tab even if you don't eat or drink as much as some others.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.**
Before driving yourself to the limits in order to achieve an objective, be absolutely certain it's something you want in the first place. There's a chance that your efforts could be misplaced.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.**
Even if you get a choice opportunity to badmouth someone you don't like, it behooves you not to do so. Your pals will wonder if you'd do the same to them.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.**
Someone who is known for taking advantage of others might try to do so with you. If you're on the ball, you won't let him get away with it.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.**
If you find it necessary to team up with another in order to accomplish something, try to solicit an associate who has some experience in the matter at hand.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.**
Do your best to keep up with your duties and responsibilities. You'll quickly find that you're not likely to function efficiently if you allow things to pile up.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.**
If an unfamiliar subject or situation rears its head, don't pretend that you know something about it. You won't look too good if you're drawn into the discussion.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.**
Budget planning with your family could turn out to be frustrating if everyone wants the advantage. Pay the bills, and then split what's left.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.**
It's a mistake to become overly concerned about your co-workers' job performance. Your work will suffer.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.**
You can count on buyer's remorse setting in if you do not manage your resources as well as you should. It behooves you to limit your spending only to what is essential.

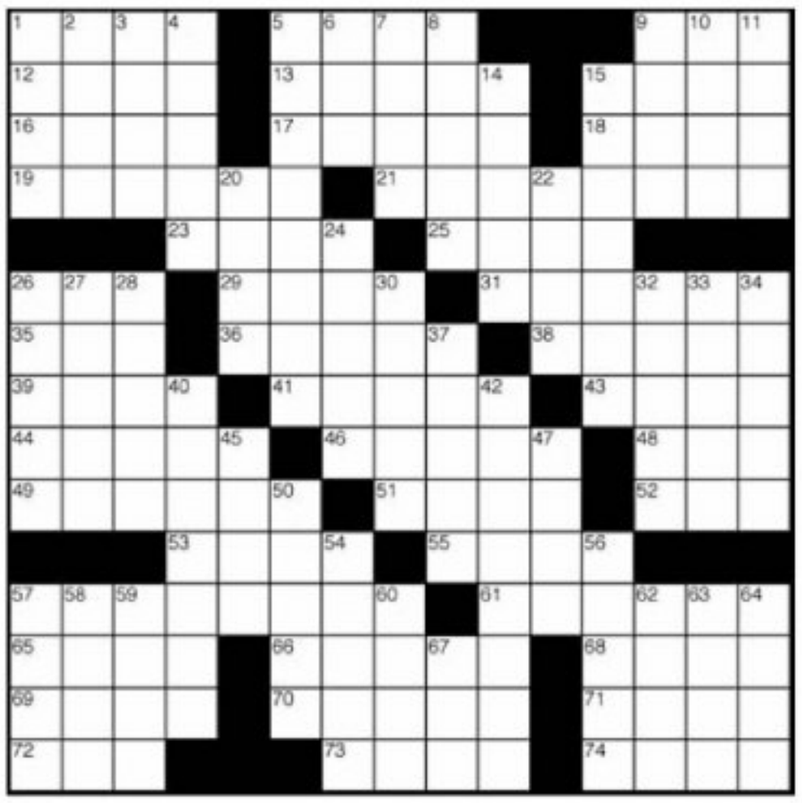
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.**
It's possible that you could create a problem with family members by treating outsiders with more consideration than you do them. Don't think the clan won't notice.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.**
If you insist upon nursing a senseless grudge, you'll only crowd out all the sunshine in your life. Strive to be forgiving and forgetful where old slights are concerned.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Amoebas have one
5 Campus building
9 Bleachers cry
12 Irish Rose's guy
13 Hodgepodges
15 Hay storage unit
16 Part of GTO
17 — de Mayo (Mexican holiday)
18 Thames school
19 "Alas, poor —!"
21 Manger scenes, e.g.
23 Too curious
25 Frond
26 Gridiron div.
29 "Hello, matey!"
31 Made cloudy
35 Cortez's quest
36 Forum wear
38 Nab
39 Chafes
41 Early Britons
43 Feds (hyph.)
44 Gaiety
46 Bundle of grain
48 Circus routine
49 Hung around
51 Like redwoods
52 Ave. crossers
53 — it on thick
55 Subatomic particle
57 Payment
61 Pluck
65 Votes in favor
66 Famed fountain
68 Boarding school
69 Pharaoh's amulet
70 — rings
71 Feverish chill
72 PBS "Science Guy"
73 Trilled
74 Be an also-ran

Down
1 Hard to pin down
2 Spain's longest river
3 Fact fudger
4 Kremlin name
5 Pawnbroker's place
6 -- Baba
7 Fuzz
8 Not widespread
9 — - — -tat-tat
10 Baseball family name
11 Roost sitters
14 Fit to drive
15 Complaining
20 Ulster
22 Thailand neighbor
24 Asana practicers
26 Benchmarks
27 Cherry or lime
28 Snake charmer's snake
30 Ritzy boat
32 Sand mandala builders
33 Build
34 Mars a car
37 Geyser output
40 Chic
42 Greeting an admiral
45 Cook
47 Pour forth
50 Likewise
54 Repairs a tear
56 View from Everest
57 Meg or Nolan
58 Counting-rhyme start
59 Fabricate
60 Luke's sister
62 Cogito — sum
63 Jupiter's Greek equivalent
64 "En garde" weapon
67 Broncos' star — Miller



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	9		7					8
8				1			3	
2		1	9	8			6	
	3						7	
	6			7	3	8		5
	5			4				2
4					9		5	
	2				1	6		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

				7	6			9
					3	5		
	6				5	7	1	
				6	1	4	8	
1	8			4			9	5
	4	9	5	3				
	9	5	1				2	
		7	3					
2			6	5				

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

F	L	E	D	■	M	I	C	R	O	■	S	P	A	M
R	U	S	E	■	O	T	H	E	R	■	Q	U	I	D
O	L	A	F	■	A	D	A	P	T	■	U	R	L	S
G	L	U	E	S	■	■	R	E	H	E	A	R	S	E
■	■	■	A	L	D	A	■	L	O	R	D	■	■	■
L	I	T	T	O	R	A	L	■	■	G	R	A	S	P
A	C	E	■	E	E	R	I	E	■	S	O	L	A	R
P	I	N	S	■	D	O	L	L	Y	■	N	I	N	E
S	N	O	W	S	■	N	A	I	V	E	■	B	Y	E
E	G	R	E	T	■	■	C	O	E	R	C	I	O	N
■	■	■	R	O	A	D	■	T	S	A	R	■	■	■
C	H	I	V	A	L	R	Y	■	■	S	I	D	L	E
L	E	V	I	■	L	A	U	D	E	■	T	O	O	L
I	R	A	N	■	O	C	C	U	R	■	I	D	O	L
P	A	N	G	■	Y	O	K	E	L	■	C	O	M	A

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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THE RETURN OF HOCKEY IN BOSTON! GET EXCITED

Three reasons why the Hub is ecstatic about having pucks back ◗ If you've forgotten, the Bruins are still pretty damn good ◗ NHL will fill the big void left before baseball season

It only took 113 days and a league-wide total of 513 regular season games missed, but the NHL finally came to its senses and agreed to end its most recent lockout late last night in New York City.

The details of whether it will be a truncated 48 or 50-game season and when exactly it will start (Jan. 15 or 19) should be hammered out in the next few days. For now, let's just rejoice in the fact that we will have the Bruins back in our lives on a daily basis.

1 THE B'S ARE STILL ELITE
It's easy to forget since they folded in the first round of the playoffs last spring against an inferior team, the Capitals, and lunatic goaltender Tim Thomas took a self-imposed siesta but the B's remain loaded with talent. They are only a season removed from a Stanley Cup title and any team that returns Zdeno Chara, Tyler Seguin, Patrice Bergeron, David Krejci, Tuukka Rask and Co. should always be a contender in the Eastern Conference. Many of their players competed in Europe during the lockout and they didn't have many transactions before it so the Bruins should have almost instant chemistry when they get back on the TD Garden ice.

2 IT WOULD'VE BEEN A LONG, COLD WINTER
The NBA is fine and college hockey is entertaining enough — we're spoiled with many good teams in the area — but neither of those sports replace the unique thrills and excitement of the NHL. The Celtics have sputtered to a slow start and adding to that, they only play three or four times every week. As soon as the Patriots' playoff journey is over (Pats fans are hoping it's the night of Feb. 3), we still have the dreary months of February and March to fill with some sort of sports. The B's fill that void tremendously.

3 JACK IS BACK!
Most of the Celtics coverage in the local media is pretty weak (way too many Green teamers) but that is not the case with the Bruins. From the superb Dave Goucher and Bob Beers calling the games on the Sports Hub to the maniacal Jack Edwards and Andy Brickley on NESN, the B's are arguably the team that gets the best in-depth and unbiased analysis out of the four major sports in these parts.

RICH SLATE
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ As of now, it's Tuukka Rask, left, in and Tim Thomas out for the Bruins in net.

In the news

Deal reached
A tentative deal on a new collective bargaining agreement was reached between the NHL and NHLPA yesterday.

"We've got to dot a lot of I's and cross a lot of T's," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, above, said.

The deal was reportedly for 10 years, and the league moved off its demands for a $60 million cap ceiling in 2013-14, according to TSN. The ceiling will be $64.3 million.

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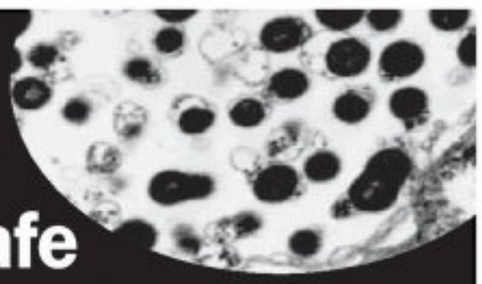
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▶ Arian Foster ran for just 46 yards on 15 carries against the Patriots in Week 14.

Take two: Texans are no pushovers

◗ Fans shouldn't be so quick to dismiss Texans after Patriots dismantled them a month ago ◗ Playoff loss to Jets provides cautionary backdrop

On the back of running back Arian Foster's 32 carries, 140 yards and a touchdown, the Houston Texans defeated the Cincinnati Bengals, 19-13, in Saturday's wild card matchup and will now take on the Patriots in next Sunday's divisional matchup at Gillette Stadium (4:30 p.m., CBS).

For the Texans, it's a matter of which team will show up. Houston was considered the best team in all of football at one point, starting the year 11-1 before losing three of its last four games and falling to the No. 3 overall seed in the AFC at 12-4 overall.

The Texans played better than they did down the stretch in the regular season on Saturday, but it still wasn't near what they were like in the first 12 games of the season. The issue for the Texans has often been their inability to find the end zone.

In their three losses to finish the 2012 regular season, they didn't score more than 16 points in any of those games. They didn't have any problem at all offensively through the first 12 games of the year, as they averaged 29.25 points per game.

▶ Matt Schaub

One area to focus on in next week's matchup is how well the Patriots can run the ball. Houston comes into the game having the seventh-best run defense in the league, while the Patriots are the seventh-best rushing team in the league, averaging 136.5 yards per game. The Patriots are a perfect 12-0 this year when they rush for more than 100 yards, but are 0-4 when they don't hurdle the century mark.

Ironically, the Texans started their downward spiral after their Week 14 matchup in New England on "Monday Night Football." The Patriots dominated the Texans from the start and rolled to a 42-14 win. Houston is already looking forward to a rematch, as immediately following their win on Saturday, Foster said, "We owe them one."

There is no question there will be some discussion this week of the last time the Patriots faced a team in the playoffs that they beat thoroughly in the regular season. Everyone remembers the 2010 season when the Patriots smacked the Jets, 45-3, in Week 13, also on "Monday Night Football," and then the Jets came into Gillette Stadium a month later in the divisional round and won 28-21.

Ryan Hannable
sports@metro.us

Not so wild, wild card weekend

Three of the four games this weekend were snoozers. Nonetheless, next weekend's divisional showdowns should all be doozies.

- **The Broncos will host the Ravens** in the first divisional round game on Saturday (4:30 p.m., CBS). Bernard Pierce and Ray Rice combined for 173 yards on the ground in the Ravens' 24-9 win over the Colts yesterday.
- **San Francisco will host Green Bay** in prime time on Saturday (8 p.m., FOX). The Packers shredded Minnesota, 24-10, to advance.
- **The Seahawks will play at Atlanta** on Sunday (1 p.m., FOX), as they hammered RG3 yesterday and took down the Redskins, 24-14. Washington's rookie QB eventually had to leave the game, as the 'Skins couldn't score in the final three quarters.

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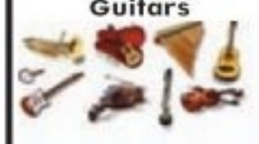
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